

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image forming device, comprising:

an identification information reading part reading identification information of a document;

an operation requirement selection part selecting at least one operation requirement specified according to said identification information; and

an operation control part controlling an execution of a predetermined operation to be performed on the document according to the operation requirement selected by said operation requirement selection part.

Claim 2 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said operation requirement is a requirement regarding security for said document.

Claim 3 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined operation is forming an image by electronic data.

Claim 4 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined operation is printing said document on a paper.

Claim 5 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said identification information reading part includes:

an identification information recognition part recognizing data acquired by performing a predetermined reading operation with respect to said document, as said identification information;

a document profile management part relating and managing said identification information and a document profile; and

a document profile acquisition part acquiring said document profile related to said identification information recognized by said identification information recognition part by referring to said document profile management part.

Claim 6 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 5, wherein said predetermined reading operation reads either a bar code, a two-dimensional code or a magnetic code printed on said document, or an RFID provided on said document so as to recognize the read data as said identification information when said document is a paper.

Claim 7 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 5, wherein said predetermined reading operation recognizes either a bar code, a two-dimensional code, numerical information, text information or a dot pattern from electronic image data generated by reading said document, as said identification information.

Claim 8 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a user profile acquisition part acquiring a user profile, including a user category and a user security level, regarding a user requesting said predetermined operation.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The image forming device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said user profile acquisition part includes:

a user identification information acquisition part acquiring user identification information identifying said user from ~~said~~ another user;

a user profile management part relating and managing said user identification information and said user profile;

a user authentication part authenticating said user according to said user identification information; and

a user profile reading part acquiring said user profile related to said user identification information acquired by said user identification information acquisition part by referring to said user profile management part according to a result of the authentication by said user authentication part.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The image forming device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said user profile acquisition part includes:

a user identification information acquisition part acquiring user identification information identifying said user from ~~said~~ another user; and

a user profile request part requesting said user profile from an external server authenticating said user and providing said user profile.

Claim 11 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

an operation requirement judgment part judging whether or not said operation requirement is feasible; and

an operation prohibition part prohibiting said predetermined operation when a result of the judgment by said operation requirement judgment part indicates that said operation requirement is not feasible.

Claim 12 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said operation requirement requires embedding an electronic watermark upon executing said predetermined operation with respect to said document.

Claim 13 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said operation requirement requires embedding a displayable label upon executing said predetermined operation with respect to said document.

Claim 14 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said operation requirement requires embedding a displayable label upon executing said predetermined operation with respect to said document, and

said displayable label contains at least authentication data of said user requesting said predetermined operation, and a timestamp upon requesting said predetermined operation.

Claim 15 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said operation requirement requires recording at least authentication data of said user requesting said predetermined operation, document data of said document generated by said predetermined operation, and a timestamp upon requesting said predetermined operation.

Claim 16 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a delivery part delivering document data via a network, the document data being generated by executing said predetermined operation with satisfying said operation requirement enabling a network delivery of said document.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An image forming device, comprising:

a document profile acquisition part transmitting identification information read from a document to an external server providing a document profile, and thereby receiving said document profile from said external server;

an operation requirement selection part selecting at least one operation requirement according to said document profile; and

an operation control part controlling an execution of a predetermined operation to be performed on the document according to the operation requirement selected by said operation requirement selection part.

Claim 18 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said operation requirement is a requirement regarding security for said document.

Claim 19 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said predetermined operation is forming an image by electronic data.

Claim 20 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said predetermined operation is printing said document on a paper.

Claim 21 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said document profile acquisition part includes:

an identification information recognition part recognizing data acquired by performing a predetermined reading operation with respect to said document, as said identification information; and

a communication part transmitting said identification information recognized by said identification information recognition part to said external server, and receiving said document profile transmitted from said external server.

Claim 22 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said identification information recognition part reads either a bar code, a two-dimensional code or a magnetic code printed on said document, or an RFID provided on said document by performing said predetermined reading operation so as to recognize the read data as said identification information when said document is a paper.

Claim 23 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said identification information recognition part recognizes either a bar code, a two-dimensional code, numerical information, text information or a dot pattern from electronic image data generated by reading said document by performing said predetermined reading operation, as said identification information.

Claim 24 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 23, wherein said document profile acquisition part includes a portion acquisition part acquiring a predetermined portion representing a portion or all of said electronic image data,

wherein said communication part transmits said predetermined portion of said electronic image data to said external server, and receives said document profile from said external server.

Claim 25 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 17, further comprising a user profile acquisition part acquiring a user profile regarding a user requesting said predetermined operation.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The image forming device as claimed in claim 25, wherein said user profile acquisition part includes:

a user identification information acquisition part acquiring user identification information identifying said user from ~~said~~ another user;

a user profile management part relating and managing said user identification information and said user profile;

a user authentication part authenticating said user according to said user identification information; and

a user profile reading part acquiring said user profile related to said user identification information acquired by said user identification information acquisition part by referring to said user profile management part according to a result of the authentication by said user authentication part.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The image forming device as claimed in claim 25, wherein said user profile acquisition part includes:

a user identification information acquisition part acquiring user identification information identifying said user from ~~said~~ another user; and

a user profile request part requesting said user profile from an external server authenticating said user and providing said user profile.

Claim 28 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 17, further comprising:

an operation requirement judgment part judging whether or not said operation requirement is feasible; and

an operation prohibition part prohibiting said predetermined operation when a result of the judgment by said operation requirement judgment part indicates that said operation requirement is not feasible.

Claim 29 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said operation requirement requires embedding an electronic watermark upon executing said predetermined operation with respect to said document.

Claim 30 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said operation requirement requires embedding a displayable label upon executing said predetermined operation with respect to said document.

Claim 31 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 26, wherein said operation requirement requires embedding a displayable label upon executing said predetermined operation with respect to said document, and

said displayable label contains at least authentication data of said user requesting said predetermined operation, and a timestamp upon requesting said predetermined operation.

Claim 32 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 26, wherein said operation requirement requires recording at least authentication data of said user requesting

said predetermined operation, document data of said document generated by said predetermined operation, and a timestamp upon requesting said predetermined operation.

Claim 33 (Original): The image forming device as claimed in claim 17, further comprising a delivery part delivering document data via a network, the document data being generated by executing said predetermined operation with satisfying said operation requirement enabling a network delivery of said document.

Claim 34 (Withdrawn): A document profile management server comprising:
a communication part receiving document identification information transmitted from a device connected via a network, the document identification information identifying a document, and transmitting a document profile related to said document identification information to said device;

a document profile management part managing said document profile in relation to said document identification information; and

a document profile acquisition part acquiring said document profile related to said document identification information received from said device from said document profile management part.

Claim 35 (Withdrawn): A document profile management server comprising:
a communication part receiving electronic image data transmitted from a device connected via a network, the electronic image data being generated by reading a document, and transmitting a document profile corresponding to said electronic image data to said device;

an identification information acquisition part reading either a bar code, a two-dimensional code, numerical information, text information or a dot pattern from said electronic image data so as to acquire a document identification information identifying said document;

a document profile management part managing said document profile in relation to said document identification information; and

a document profile acquisition part acquiring said document profile related to said document identification information acquired from said electronic image data from said document profile management part.

Claim 36 (Withdrawn): A document processing device comprising a profile information addition part for performing a predetermined processing with respect to document data including a document profile added thereto by adding document identification information related to said document profile,

wherein said profile information addition part includes:

a document profile acquisition part acquiring said document profile from said document data;

a communication part transmitting said document profile to an external server, and receiving said document identification information from said external server; and

a data processing part performing said predetermined processing by adding said document identification information to said document data.

Claim 37 (Withdrawn): A document processing device comprising a profile information addition part for performing a predetermined processing with respect to

document data including a document profile added thereto by adding electronic image data corresponding to said document profile,

wherein said profile information addition part includes:

a document profile acquisition part acquiring said document profile from said document data;

a communication part transmitting said document profile to an external server, and receiving said electronic image data from said external server; and

a data processing part performing said predetermined processing by adding said electronic image data to said document data.

Claim 38 (Withdrawn): A document profile management server comprising:

a communication part receiving a document profile transmitted from a device connected via a network, and transmitting document identification information related to said document profile to said device;

a document profile management part managing said document identification information in relation to said document profile; and

an identification information generation part writing said document profile received from said device in said document profile management part, generating said document identification information, and causing said document profile management part to manage said document identification information in relation to said document profile.

Claim 39 (Withdrawn): The document profile management server as claimed in claim 38, further comprising an electronic image data generation part generating either a bar code, a two-dimensional code, numerical information, text information or a dot pattern as electronic

image data according to said document identification information generated by said identification information generation part.

Claim 40 (Withdrawn): A document profile management server comprising:

a communication part receiving and transmitting at least one of a document profile, document identification information and electronic image data to and from a device connected via a network;

a document profile management part managing said document identification information in relation to said document profile;

an identification information acquisition part reading either a bar code, a two-dimensional code, numerical information, text information or a dot pattern from said electronic image data so as to acquire the document identification information;

a profile acquisition part acquiring said document profile from said document profile management part according to said document identification information;

an identification information generation part writing said document profile in said document profile management part, generating said document identification information, and causing said document profile management part to manage said document identification information in relation to said document profile; and

an electronic image data generation part generating either a bar code, a two-dimensional code, numerical information, text information or a dot pattern as the electronic image data according to said document identification information.

Claim 41 (Withdrawn): An image forming device comprising:

a policy hold part holding a security policy describing a handling rule concerning a document;

a policy rewriting part rewriting said security policy held by said policy hold part with a security policy from outside; and

an operation control part controlling an operation with respect to said document according to said security policy held by said policy hold part.

Claim 42 (Withdrawn): The image forming device as claimed in claim 41, further comprising a communication part performing a communication control via a network, wherein said policy rewriting part rewrites said security policy held by said policy hold part with a security policy received by said communication part.

Claim 43 (Withdrawn): The image forming device as claimed in claim 42, wherein said policy rewriting part writes a security policy acquired from outside by said communication part in said policy hold part upon application of power.

Claim 44 (Withdrawn): The image forming device as claimed in claim 42, further comprising a timer part notifying said communication part of a timing for rewriting said security policy held by said policy hold part, wherein said communication part acquires said security policy from a policy distribution server distributing said security policy via said network.

Claim 45 (Withdrawn): The image forming device as claimed in claim 41, further comprising an interface part reading a security policy from a storage medium storing said security policy, wherein said policy rewriting part rewrites said security policy held by said policy hold part with said security policy read by said interface part.

Claim 46 (Withdrawn): The image forming device as claimed in claim 45, further comprising a communication part performing a communication control via a network, wherein said communication part imparts selection information indicating a selection of a security policy to said policy rewriting part upon receiving said selection information, and

said policy rewriting part rewrites said security policy held by said policy hold part with said security policy read by said interface part according to said selection information.

Claim 47 (Withdrawn): The image forming device as claimed in claim 46, wherein said policy hold part holds a plurality of the security policies, and

said policy rewriting part sets one of said security policies held by said policy hold part as a security policy to be enforced according to said selection information.

Claim 48 (Withdrawn): The image forming device as claimed in claim 42, wherein said communication part acquires said security policy via said network according to Simple Object Access Protocol.

Claim 49 (Withdrawn): The image forming device as claimed in claim 46, wherein said communication part acquires said security policy via said network according to Simple Object Access Protocol.

Claim 50 (Withdrawn): A policy distribution server comprising:
a communication part performing a communication control via a network; and

a policy management part managing a security policy describing a handling rule concerning a document,

wherein said communication part distributes said security policy managed by said policy management part to a device connected via said network.

Claim 51 (Withdrawn): The policy distribution server as claimed in claim 50, wherein said communication part transmits authentication information simultaneously upon distributing said security policy.

Claim 52 (Withdrawn): The policy distribution server as claimed in claim 50, wherein said communication part receives a acquisition request for said security policy managed by said policy management part from said device connected via said network, and authentication information of said device, and transmits said security policy to said device according to a result of authentication based on said authentication information.

Claim 53 (Withdrawn): The image forming device as claimed in claim 50, further comprising an interface writing said security policy in a storage medium, wherein said policy management part writes said security policy to said storage medium by said interface.

Claim 54 (Withdrawn): An image forming device comprising:
a rule acquisition part transmitting a document profile regarding a document to an external server providing a handling rule concerning said document according to said document profile, and thereby acquiring said handling rule from said external server; and

an operation control part controlling an operation with respect to said document according to said handling rule acquired by said rule acquisition part.

Claim 55 (Withdrawn): The image forming device as claimed in claim 54, wherein said rule acquisition part includes a communication part controlling a communication with said external server according to Simple Object Access Protocol.

Claim 56 (Withdrawn): The image forming device as claimed in claim 54, wherein said rule acquisition part includes:

- a communication part controlling a communication with said external server;
- a select function hold part holding feasibility information indicating whether or not a selectable function is executable; and

- an operation requirement judgment part judging whether or not an operation requirement specified by said handling rule to be satisfied for allowing said operation is feasible by referring to said feasibility information held by said select function hold part, wherein said operation control part controls said operation with respect to said document according a result of the judgment by said operation requirement judgment part.

Claim 57 (Withdrawn): A policy interpretation server comprising:

- a communication part performing a communication control via a network;
- a policy hold part holding a security policy describing a handling rule concerning a document; and

- a policy acquisition part acquiring said handling rule concerning an operation performed with respect to said document by referring to said security policy held by said

policy hold part according to a document profile regarding said document and said operation performed with respect to said document,

wherein said communication part imparts said document profile and said operation received via said network to said policy acquisition part, and transmits said handling rule acquired by said policy acquisition part.

Claim 58 (Withdrawn): The policy interpretation server as claimed in claim 57, further comprising:

a select function hold part holding feasibility information indicating whether or not a selectable function is executable in each of devices connected via said network; and

an operation requirement judgment part judging whether or not an operation requirement specified by said handling rule acquired by said policy acquisition part to be satisfied for allowing said operation is feasible by referring to said feasibility information held by said select function hold part.

Claim 59 (Currently Amended): An image forming method, comprising:

an identification information reading step of reading identification information of a document;

an operation requirement selection step of selecting at least one operation requirement specified according to said identification information; and

an operation control step of controlling an execution of a predetermined operation to be performed on the document according to the operation requirement selected by said operation requirement selection step.

Claim 60 (Original): The image forming method as claimed in claim 59, further comprising:

an operation requirement judgment step of judging whether or not said operation requirement is feasible; and

an operation prohibition step of prohibiting said predetermined operation when a result of the judgment by said operation requirement judgment step indicates that said operation requirement is not feasible.

Claim 61 (Currently Amended): An image forming method, comprising:

a document profile acquisition step of transmitting identification information read from a document to an external server providing a document profile, and thereby receiving said document profile from said external server;

an operation requirement selection step of selecting at least one operation requirement according to said document profile; and

an operation control step of controlling an execution of a predetermined operation to be performed on the document according to the operation requirement selected by said operation requirement selection step.

Claim 62 (Original): The image forming method as claimed in claim 61, wherein said document profile acquisition step includes:

an identification information recognition step of recognizing data acquired by performing a predetermined reading operation with respect to said document, as said identification information; and

a communication step of transmitting said identification information recognized by said identification information recognition step to said external server, and receiving said document profile transmitted from said external server.

Claim 63 (Withdrawn): A method for a computer to perform:

a policy hold step of holding a security policy describing a handling rule concerning a document;

a policy rewriting step of rewriting said security policy held by said policy hold step with a security policy from outside; and

an operation control step of controlling an operation with respect to said document according to said security policy held by said policy hold step.

Claim 64 (Currently Amended): A computer readable storage medium encoded with instructions, which when executed by ~~executable program~~ causing a computer causes the computer to perform a method comprising:

an identification information reading step of reading identification information of a document;

an operation requirement selection step of selecting at least one operation requirement specified according to said identification information;

an operation control step of controlling an execution of a predetermined operation to be performed on the document according to the operation requirement selected by said operation requirement selection step;

an operation requirement judgment step of judging whether or not said operation requirement is feasible; and

an operation prohibition step of prohibiting said predetermined operation when a result of the judgment by said operation requirement judgment step indicates that said operation requirement is not feasible.

Claim 65 (Currently Amended): A computer readable storage medium encoded with instructions, which when executed by a computer ~~executable program causing a computer~~ causes the computer to perform a method comprising:

a document profile acquisition step of transmitting identification information read from a document to an external server providing a document profile, and thereby receiving said document profile from said external server;

an operation requirement selection step of selecting at least one operation requirement according to said document profile; and

an operation control step of controlling an execution of a predetermined operation to be performed on the document according to the operation requirement selected by said operation requirement selection step.

Claim 66 (Withdrawn): A computer executable program causing a computer to perform:

a policy hold step of holding a security policy describing a handling rule concerning a document;

a policy rewriting step of rewriting said security policy held by said policy hold step with a security policy from outside; and

an operation control step of controlling an operation with respect to said document according to said security policy held by said policy hold step.

Claim 67 (Currently Amended): A computer readable storage medium storing a ~~program-causing~~ instructions which when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method comprising:

an identification information reading step of reading identification information of a document;

an operation requirement selection step of selecting at least one operation requirement specified according to said identification information;

an operation control step of controlling an execution of a predetermined operation to be performed on the document according to the operation requirement selected by said operation requirement selection step;

an operation requirement judgment step of judging whether or not said operation requirement is feasible; and

an operation prohibition step of prohibiting said predetermined operation when a result of the judgment by said operation requirement judgment step indicates that said operation requirement is not feasible.

Claim 68 (Currently Amended): A computer readable storage medium storing a ~~program-causing~~ instructions which when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method comprising:

a document profile acquisition step of transmitting identification information read from a document to an external server providing a document profile, and thereby receiving said document profile from said external server;

an operation requirement selection step of selecting at least one operation requirement according to said document profile;

an operation control step of controlling an execution of a predetermined operation to be performed on the document according to the operation requirement selected by said operation requirement selection step;

an operation requirement judgment step of judging whether or not said operation requirement is feasible; and

an operation prohibition step of prohibiting said predetermined operation when a result of the judgment by said operation requirement judgment step indicates that said operation requirement is not feasible.

Claim 69 (Withdrawn): A computer readable storage medium storing a program causing a computer to perform:

a policy hold step of holding a security policy describing a handling rule concerning a document;

a policy rewriting step of rewriting said security policy held by said policy hold step with a security policy from outside; and

an operation control step of controlling an operation with respect to said document according to said security policy held by said policy hold step.